

SENATE—Monday, July 24, 2000*(Legislative day of Friday, July 21, 2000)*

The Senate met at 12:01 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, when called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You know us as we really are. You know the inner person behind highly polished exteriors. You know when we are tired and need Your strength. You know about our worries and anxieties and offer Your comfort. You understand our fears and frustrations and assure us of Your presence. You feel our hurts and infuse Your healing love. Flood our inner being with Your peace so that we can live with confidence and courage.

At 3:40 p.m. today, we will remember the sacrifice in the line of duty of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson. Continue to bless their families. Help us to express our gratitude to the officers who serve in Congress with such faithfulness. Now we commit this day to You, for You are our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHARLES GRASSLEY, Senator from the State of Iowa, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The distinguished Senator from Iowa is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the leader, I would like to announce today's program. The Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators DURBIN and THOMAS in control of the time.

Following morning business, the Senate is expected to begin consideration of the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill with amendments in order to that bill. Those Senators who have amendments should work with the bill managers on a time to offer their amendments as soon as possible.

ORDER FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. As a reminder to all Members, on this date 2 years ago, Offi-

cer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were killed in the line of duty while defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun. In honor of this anniversary, I now ask unanimous consent that at 3:40 p.m. today, there be a moment of silence to honor these two officers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator DURBIN or his designee, 12 to 1 p.m.; Senator THOMAS or his designee, 1 to 2 p.m.

The distinguished Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as if in morning business, with the time to come from Senator THOMAS' time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOCUS POCUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to note that there are some things happening around here of late that make me wonder if we are in an episode of the X-Files. I am troubled with the mysterious appearance and disappearance of funds within the conference report for Military Construction. In the effort to develop an emergency spending package, the House included money for meth lab clean-up. It voted on money. The Senate-passed bill had money for meth lab clean-up. Both Houses of Congress recognized that there was a real emergency. Both bodies recognized the need to provide emergency money to DEA to help pay for the costs of cleaning up the toxic waste dumps caused by illegal meth production.

I and other members of this body have been concerned for some time

about this problem. We have written the President, the head of the Office of Management and Budget, the Attorney General, and the Majority Leader and members of the Committee on Appropriations. The Majority Whip of the Senate had an emergency meth spending item accepted as part of the bill passed by the Senate. But it seems we've had a case of alien abduction. All—the meth money disappeared in conference and no one seems to know how or why. The House included money. The Senate included money. The conference to reconcile the differences, however, included no money. What this means is strange math in which one plus one equals zero.

Mr. President, I have participated in various conferences with the other body, and I know they can be complicated affairs. Strong disagreements can exist over how to phrase a section, or how much funding this particular project should receive. But there have always been some guidelines governing a conference. First, you are working toward a compromise. This means, by definition, you are not going to get everything you want. However, it also means you will get something that will work. Second, in a conference, you aren't starting from scratch. Each body has reviewed, debated, and passed a version of legislation—a starting point, if you will, for compromise.

These compromises, often difficult to arrive at, are worked out behind closed doors. Out of the watchful eye of the public. Legislating can be an ugly process, and often negotiations continue in a much more open and frank manner in private than under the media microscope. But compromise should not be the occasion for legislating afresh, for ignoring the expressed intent of majorities in both Houses.

Looking through the Military Construction Appropriations bill this last week, I was distressed at some of the items I found that seem to have magically appeared. 6 C-130Js and a new Gulf Stream 5 for the Coast Guard, for example. So far as I know, the Coast Guard did not ask for a Gulf Stream, and we did not vote for one. But there it is.

At the same time, it seems that needed funds to support the DEA's continued assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies to clean up methamphetamine labs have disappeared—and no one seems to know where it went.

Heading into the conference, it was clear what the situation was. The